

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-12 were pending in this application. Claims 5-7 have been cancelled and claims 1-4 and 8-12 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 8-12 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), second paragraph as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,504 to Yukaku et al., and claims 2, 8-10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yukaku et al. However, claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected basis claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have elected to amend independent claims 1 and 11 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

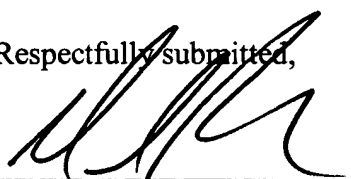
Serial No.: 10/812,173  
Art Unit: 2682

Attorney's Docket No.: GEN0014-US  
Page 6

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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